

-284-

Abstract

Novel burst-free, sustained release biocompatible and biodegradable microcapsules which can be programmed to release their active core for variable durations ranging from 1-100 days in an aqueous physiological environment. The microcapsules are comprised of a core of polypeptide or other biologically active agent encapsulated in a matrix of poly(lactide/glycolide) copolymer, which may contain a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, as a blend of uncapped free carboxyl end group) and end-capped forms ranging in ratios from 100/0 to 1/99.